

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Water Resources Development Act of 2007, as Passed by Senate and House of Representatives

PURPOSE: The purpose of this paper is to summarize the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

The Act is made up of nine titles which are summarized below. Total Federal cost of the bill is approximately \$22 billion.

Title I (approximately \$3.5 billion):

- Authorizes the Secretary of the Army (Secretary) to carry out 46 new projects for which the Chief of Engineers reports have been completed at a total cost of \$6.17 billion (\$3.57 billion Federal). Included in this section are several projects within the Florida Everglades --- Indian River Lagoon Project, Picayune Strand Restoration Project and the Site 1 Impoundment Project.
- Directs the Secretary to study and if determined appropriate, implement projects under various Continuing Authorities Programs (CAP). These provisions emphasize projects for which the Secretary has standing authority to study and implement.
 - 44 under Section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (PL 80-858), as amended, Small Flood Damage Reduction
 - 18 under Section 14 of the Flood Control Act of 1946 (PL 79-526), as amended, Emergency Streambank Protection
 - 21 under Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960 (PL86-645), Small Navigation
 - 7 under Section 1135, WRDA 1986 (PL 99-662), as amended, Project Modifications for Improvement of the Environment
 - 43 under Section 206, WRDA 1996 (PL 104-303), as amended, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration
 - 8 under Section 3 of the Act of August 13, 1946 (PL 79-727), as amended, Shoreline Protection
 - 1 under Section 2 of the Flood Control Act of August 28, 1937, as amended, Snagging and Sediment Removal
 - 2 under Section 111 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1968 (PL 90-483), Prevent of Mitigate Damage Caused by Navigation Projects
 - 1 under Section 104 of the River and Harbors Act of 1958 (PL 85-500), Aquatic Plant Control.

Title II (approximately \$400 million):

- Includes 47 non-project specific provisions, including guidance and direction on certain aspects of the Civil Works program, including planning, independent review of Corps projects and mitigation for fish and wildlife and wetlands losses. Additionally, there are provisions included which raise the annual programmatic limitations for several categories under the Continuing Authorities Program.

Title III (approximately \$3.1 billion):

- Includes provisions that modify specific projects currently authorized, including raising the authorization limits (902 limits) for approximately 20 projects, including important ongoing projects such as McAlpine Lock and Dam (Kentucky and Illinois), and Santa Ana River Mainstem, (California) and modifying numerous other projects.
- Includes declaration of nonnavigability for one area.
- Deauthorizes all or part of 46 projects

Title IV (approximately \$157 million):

- Authorizes, modifies or directs 87 project or location specific studies and 14 programmatic or regional studies. The programmatic/regional studies are John Glenn Great Lakes Basin Program, Southwestern United States Drought Study, Delaware River, Eurasian Milfoil, San Francisco Bay, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Selineum Studies, Colorado, Upper Delaware River Watershed, Ecosystem Restoration and Fish Passage Improvements, Oregon, Walla Walla River Basin, Western Pennsylvania Flood Damage Reduction, Coastal Texas Ecosystem Protection and Restoration, Southwestern Utah, Ecosystem and Hydropower Generation Dams, Vermont and Debris Removal.

Title V (approximately \$4.5 billion):

- Authorizes new projects or programs as well as modifying existing projects and programs.
- It directs the Secretary to expedite completion of studies and if feasible, expedite construction of fourteen projects and directs expedition of studies for five projects.
- It adds or amends projects for environmental infrastructure improvements at a Federal cost of approximately \$2.2 billion. The cost-sharing allocations for all of the projects falling within this category are 75% federal and 25% non-federal.

Title VI (approximately \$95 million):

- Provides modifications and direction in carrying out the Florida Everglades Program. The Florida Everglades program is the largest environmental restoration undertaking in the United States.

Title VII (approximately \$5.8 billion):

- Relates to projects and programs in the Louisiana Coastal Area.
- It includes authorization for the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) program for environmental restoration
- It continues and modifies authorization for ongoing work in the New Orleans, LA vicinity to plan and construct a hurricane and storm damage reduction project to provide increased protection against hurricanes and storm events. The President recently announced the requirement for additional funds for this work in New Orleans.
- It establishes the Coastal Louisiana Ecosystem Protection and Restoration Task Force
- It requires a report on the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet deauthorization to include ecosystem restoration and prevention of saltwater intrusion
- It includes construction of flood damage reduction projects in Lower Jefferson Parish

- It requires a report on modifications to provide 100-year level of protection for the Larose to Golden Meadow project area.

Title VIII (approximately \$4 billion):

- Provides authorization for improvements to the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System:
 - Includes close to \$2 billion for new locks at five locations on the Mississippi River and two locations on the Illinois River.
 - In conjunction, authorization is provided for approximately \$1.7 billion of environmental restoration measures; and
 - Includes approximately \$250 million for small scale, non-structural navigation improvements to the system.

Title IX (\$120 million):

- Provides authorization for a National Levee Safety Program. The Corps has begun conducting a survey and inventory of levees throughout the United States. The authorization provided in this section will allow the inventory and inspection of levees (to be cost-shared with non-Federal sponsors) to continue and also establishes a committee which will develop recommendations for a national levee safety program, including a strategic plan for implementation of the program.